

RESOLUTION NO. 09-29

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR FREE AND REDUCED COST **PET REGISTRATION AND STERILIZATION GRANTS**; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2009, the City Commission considered and adopted Ordinance No. L-80, which amended City of Fort Pierce Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4 - Animals and Fowl - and established a differential pet registration program intended to improve the standard of care for animals and reduce the public expense resulting from the impoundment of stray animals; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to reduce the financial burden upon those citizens that otherwise cannot afford to fully comply with the aforementioned ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The City shall create a Reduced Cost Pet Registration Grant to be administered in the following manner:

- a. The City shall establish an annual grant fund of \$5,000 for award under this program. Funding shall be provided from general fund revenue.
- b. Grant awards of \$5 per pet registration shall be provided to qualified residents to reduce the cost of the established annual sterilized cat or dog registration fee. Grants will not be awarded to offset the cost of registration for a non-sterilized pet, dangerous dog, or any other registration fee.
- c. In order to qualify for the grant award, the applicant must reside within the incorporated City of Fort Pierce with a household income falling below poverty guidelines established annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.
- d. Residents seeking award of this grant shall submit an application certifying eligibility for the award.

SECTION 2. The City shall create a Free or Reduced Cost Pet Sterilization Grant to be administered in the following manner:

- a. As provided by ordinance, the net proceeds of the pet registration program shall be used to fund this grant program. In addition, the City shall work with the Humane Society and other entities to obtain grants to support this program.

b. The City shall offer free dog or cat sterilization vouchers to qualifying residents that desire to take advantage of the reduced registration fee for sterilized pets.

(1) In order to qualify for a free voucher award, the applicant must reside within the incorporated City of Fort Pierce with a household income falling below poverty guidelines established annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

(2) Vouchers for free sterilization shall require no co-payment by the pet owner.

(3) Vouchers shall be redeemable at the Humane Society of St. Lucie County and any participating veterinarians in accordance with an agreement to provide services.

c. The City shall offer reduced cost dog or cat sterilization vouchers to all residents that desire to take advantage of the reduced registration fee for sterilized pets.

(1) In order to qualify for a reduced cost voucher award, the applicant must reside within the incorporated City of Fort Pierce.

(2) Vouchers for reduced cost sterilization shall require a \$25 co-payment by the pet owner.

(3) Vouchers shall be redeemable at the Humane Society of St. Lucie County and any participating veterinarians in accordance with an agreement to provide services.

d. Residents seeking award of this grant shall submit an application certifying eligibility for the award.

SECTION 3. A voucher issued pursuant to the Free or Reduced Cost Pet Sterilization Grant shall provide the pet owner 30 days to accomplish the procedure. During the 30 day period, the voucher will serve as a temporary registration.

SECTION 4. In the 90 days prior to the effective date of Ordinance No. L-80, the Police Department will implement a comprehensive public education program to alert citizens of registration requirements and reduced cost services as provided herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Resolution has been duly adopted this 20th day of April, 2009.

ATTEST:

MAYOR COMMISSIONER

CITY CLERK

(CITY SEAL)

